

# SENATE, No. 831

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators B.Smith and Greenstein**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires public water systems to provide customers and local officials with expedited notice of elevated lead levels.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning information on lead in drinking water and  
2 supplementing P.L.1977, c.224 (C.58:12A-1 et seq.).

4       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5       *of New Jersey:*

7        1.    a. A public water system that exceeds the lead action level  
8        shall send a written notice by mail to all customers and residents  
9        served by the public water system, all schools and daycare centers  
10       served by the public water system, all local health agencies in the  
11       public water system's service area, and the chief executive of each  
12       municipality in the public water system's service area. The written  
13       notice shall be sent no later than 10 days after the end of the  
14       monitoring period during which the exceedance is discovered. The  
15       written notice shall:

16 (1) clearly state that the public water system is in exceedance of  
17 the lead action level;

(2) explain what the lead action level is and the measurement process that the public water system is required to perform to monitor drinking water for lead; and

(3) provide additional information on the possible sources of lead in drinking water, the health effects of drinking water with elevated levels of lead, and measures a customer can take to reduce or eliminate lead in drinking water.

b. The notice required pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any notice requirements under federal law.

27 c. As used in this section:

"Lead action level" means the standard for lead in drinking water established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or a more stringent standard adopted by the department pursuant to the "Safe Drinking Water Act," P.L.1977, c.224 (C.58:12A-1 et al.).

32       “Local health agency” means the same as that term is defined in  
33       section 3 of P.L.1975, c.329 (C.26:3A2-3).

35        2. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

40 This bill would supplement the "Safe Drinking Water Act,"  
41 P.L.1977, c.224 (C.58:12A-1 et al.) to require public water systems  
42 to provide their customers, local health agencies, and municipal  
43 governments with expedited written notice by mail of elevated lead  
44 levels.

45 The federal "Lead and Copper Rule" requires public water  
46 systems to periodically sample their water supplies to check the  
47 amount of lead present. If the concentration of lead in more than 10  
48 percent of tap water samples collected during any monitoring period

1 is greater than 15 parts per billion, the public water system is said to  
2 exceed the lead action level, and federal regulations require the  
3 public water system to take various actions. Among other things,  
4 the regulations require the public water system to deliver public  
5 education materials to its customers within 60 days after the end of  
6 the monitoring period.

7 In New Jersey, the Department of Environmental Protection  
8 enforces the federal drinking water regulations pursuant to the "Safe  
9 Drinking Water Act." This bill would supplement the existing  
10 notice requirements by requiring the public water system to send  
11 out an expedited notice no later than 10 days after the end of the  
12 monitoring period in which the public water system exceeds the  
13 lead action level. The notice would: (1) clearly state that the public  
14 water system is in exceedance of the lead action level; (2) explain  
15 what the lead action level is and the measurement process that the  
16 public water system is required to perform to monitor drinking  
17 water for lead; and (3) provide additional information on the  
18 possible sources of lead in drinking water, the health effects of lead  
19 in drinking water, and measures a customer can take to reduce or  
20 eliminate lead in drinking water.